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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

George H. HOFFMAN, et al.

Title:

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

FRAMEWORK INTERFACE

Appl. No.:

09/815,490

Filing Date:

03/23/2001

Examiner:

Florian M. Zeender

Art Unit:

3627

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Pents

GROUP 3600

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of a document known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.





Atty. Dkt. No. 062834-0127

## TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

## RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

All of the documents are in English.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date January 12, 2004

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Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

062834-0127

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TP number. Substitute for form 1449B/PTO Complete if Known Application Number 09/815,490 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Filing Date 03/23/2001 JAN 1 2 2004 George H. HOFFMAN First Named Inventor Date Submitted: January 12, 2004 3627 Group Art Unit (use as many sheets as necessary) Examiner Name Florian M. Zeender

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Attorney Docket Number

Sheet

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	U.S. Patent Document			Date of Publication of	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant	
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
	D1	5,638,519		Haluska	06-10-1997		
	D2	6,061,691		Fox	05-09-2000		
	D3	2002/0169658	A1	Adler et al.	11-14-2002		
	D4	2002/0198759	A1	Gilday et al.	12-26-2002		
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Fore Office <sup>3</sup>	eign Patent D Number <sup>4</sup>	ocument Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.				
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<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.